

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-15 and 34-36, and add new claim 47 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal panel having a liquid crystal layer sandwiched between a pair of substrates, wherein:

said liquid crystal layer comprises a liquid crystal and a cross-linked resin;

said cross-linked resin includes an adhered cross-linked structural part, which is a cross-linked structural part adhered to ~~a liquid crystal layer contacting~~ an upper surface of one of the pair of substrates and a rising terminal part, which is a terminal part rising from ~~the liquid crystal layer contacting~~ said upper surface toward said liquid crystal; and

~~the~~ an outer surface of at least one substrate of the pair of substrates is curved.

2. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal panel having a liquid crystal layer sandwiched between a pair of substrates, wherein:

said liquid crystal layer comprises a liquid crystal and a cross-linked resin;

said cross-linked resin includes an adhered cross-linked structural part, which is a cross-linked structural part adhered to ~~a liquid crystal layer contacting~~ an upper surface of one of the pair of substrates and a rising terminal part, which is a terminal part rising from ~~the liquid crystal layer contacting~~ said upper surface toward said liquid crystal; and

~~said liquid crystal layer contacting~~ upper surface is curved.

3. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 1, wherein said ~~liquid crystal layer contacting~~upper surface is curved.

4. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 1, wherein said liquid crystal panel has a filter layer, and said ~~liquid crystal layer contacting~~upper surface is ~~the~~a surface of the filter layer or the surface of an electrode or electrodes installed in contact with the filter layer.

5. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 2, wherein said liquid crystal panel has a filter layer, and said ~~liquid crystal layer contacting~~upper surface is ~~the~~a surface of the filter layer or the surface of an electrode or electrodes installed in contact with the filter layer.

6. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal according to claim 2, wherein said curved surface of the ~~liquid crystal layer contacting~~said upper surface is composed of a plurality of concavities and convexities.

7. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal panel having a liquid crystal layer sandwiched between a pair of substrates, wherein:

said liquid crystal layer comprises a liquid crystal and a cross-linked resin;

said cross-linked resin includes an adhered cross-linked structural part, which is a cross-linked structural part adhered to a liquid crystal layer contacting an upper surface of one of the pair of substrates and a rising terminal part, which is a terminal part rising from the liquid crystal layer contacting said upper surface toward said liquid crystal; and

~~the~~ a thickness of one of ~~said the pair of~~ substrates is not more than 1/2 of ~~the~~ a thickness of the other ~~substrate~~ of the pair of substrates.

8. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of one of ~~said the pair of~~ substrates is not more than 1/2 of the thickness of the other ~~substrate~~ of said pair of substrates.

9. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 2, wherein the thickness of one of ~~said the pair of~~ substrates is not more than 1/2 of the thickness of the other ~~substrate~~ of said pair of substrates.

10. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of at least one of ~~said the pair of~~ substrates is in the range of from 100 to 500 μm .

11. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 2, wherein the thickness of at least one of said ~~the pair of~~ substrates is in the range of from 100 to 500 μm .

12. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 1, wherein the material of one of said ~~the pair of~~ substrates is different from that of the other ~~substrate of the pair of substrates~~.

13. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 2, wherein the material of one of said ~~the pair of~~ substrates is different from that of the other ~~substrate of the pair of substrates~~.

14. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 12, wherein said pair of substrates ~~comprise~~ comprises a glass substrate and a plastic substrate.

15. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 13, wherein said pair of substrates ~~comprise~~ comprises a glass substrate and a plastic substrate.

16. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 1, wherein said liquid crystal tilts while the tilting direction is regulated by uneven parts or slits of an electrode or electrodes when voltage is applied.

17. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 2, wherein said liquid crystal tilts while the tilting direction is regulated by uneven parts or slits of an electrode or electrodes when voltage is applied.

18. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 1, wherein said panel does not have an alignment control film.

19. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 2, wherein said panel does not have an alignment control film.

20. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 1, wherein said liquid crystal has a negative dielectric anisotropy.

21. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 2, wherein said liquid crystal has a negative dielectric anisotropy.

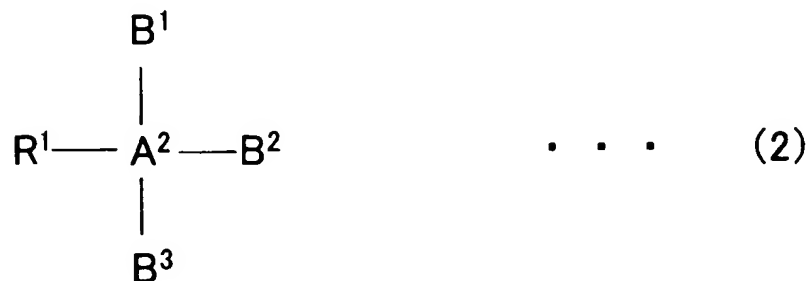
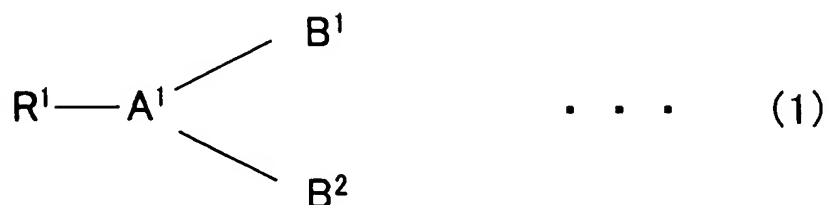
22. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 1, wherein said liquid crystal layer is formed by cross-linking, in the presence of a liquid crystal, a resin composition comprising one or more first compounds having a cross-linkable structural part, and a hydrophobic terminal part with a straight-chain section having three or more carbon atoms (hydrophobic, long-chain terminal part).

23. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 2, wherein said liquid crystal layer is formed by cross-linking, in the presence of a liquid crystal, a resin composition comprising one or more first compounds having a cross-linkable structural part, and a hydrophobic terminal part with a straight-chain section having three or more carbon atoms (hydrophobic, long-chain terminal part).

24. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 22, wherein said cross-linkable structural part of the one or more first compounds comprises a polar-group structural part.

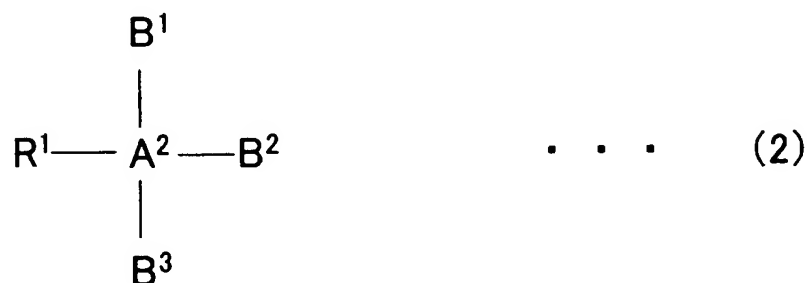
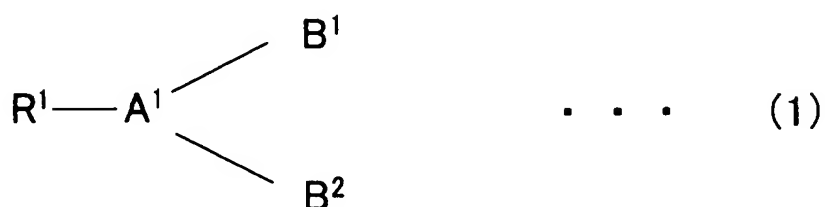
25. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 23, wherein said cross-linkable structural part of the one or more first compounds comprises a polar-group structural part.

26. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 24, wherein at least one compound represented by formula (1) or (2) below is included as the one or more first compounds,



(in formulae (1) and (2), R^1 is a hydrophobic, long-chain terminal part; A^1 is a trivalent group comprising an aliphatic chain that may be branched, an aromatic ring that may have a substituting group, an alicyclic ring that may have a substituting group, or nitrogen; A^2 is a tetravalent group comprising an aliphatic chain that may be branched, an aromatic ring that may have a substituting group, or an alicyclic ring that may have a substituting group; B^1 , B^2 and B^3 are, each, a cross-linkable structural part; and R^1 , B^1 , B^2 and B^3 can be selected independently from each other in the formulae).

27. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 25, wherein at least one compound represented by formula (1) or (2) below is included as the one or more first compounds,

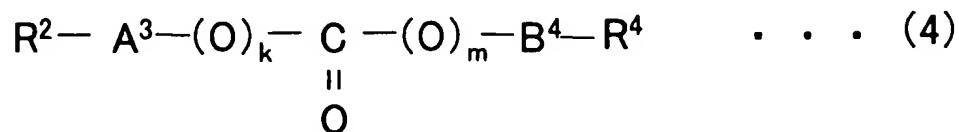
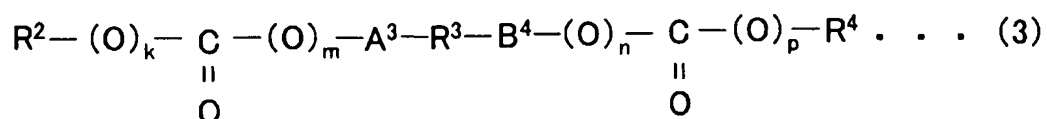


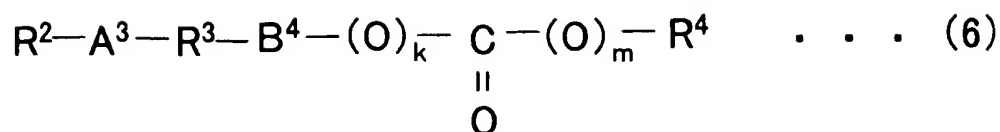
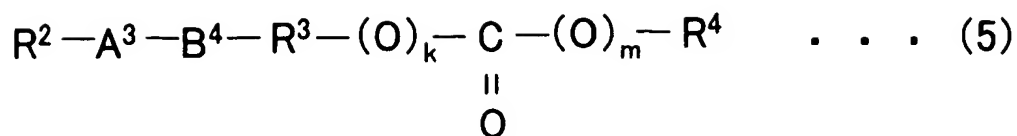
(in formulae (1) and (2), R¹ is a hydrophobic, long-chain terminal part; A¹ is a trivalent group comprising an aliphatic chain that may be branched, an aromatic ring that may have a substituting group, an alicyclic ring that may have a substituting group, or nitrogen; A² is a tetravalent group comprising an aliphatic chain that may be branched, an aromatic ring that may have a substituting group, or an alicyclic ring that may have a substituting group; B¹, B² and B³ are, each, a cross-linkable structural part; and R¹, B¹, B² and B³ can be selected independently from each other in the formulae).

28. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 26, wherein said one or more first compounds comprise a second compound with a cross-linkable structural part and substantially without a hydrophobic, long-chain terminal part.

29. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 27, wherein said one or more first compounds comprise a second compound with a cross-linkable structural part and substantially without a hydrophobic, long-chain terminal part.

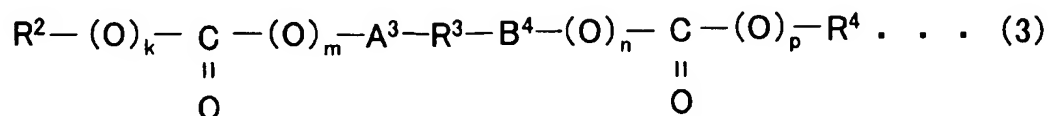
30. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 28, wherein at least one compound selected from the group consisting of the compounds represented by formulae (3) to (6) below is included as the second compound,

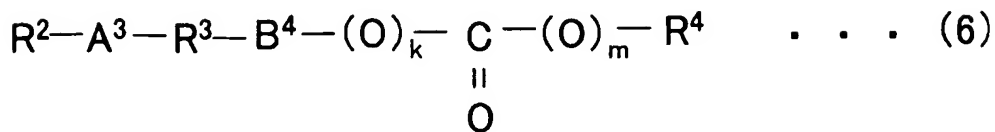
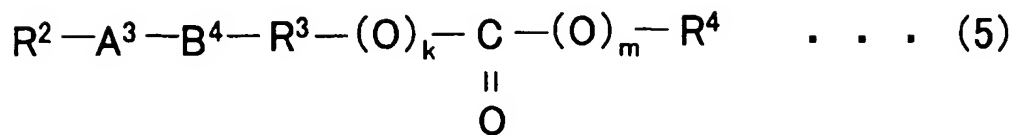
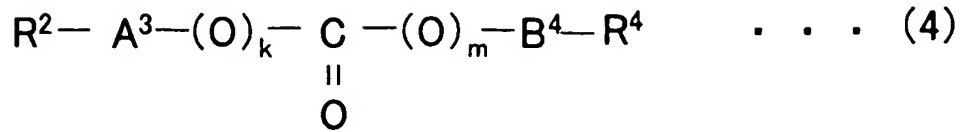




(in formulae (3) to (6), A³ and B⁴ are, independently from each other, a vinylene group or a propenylene group; R³ is a divalent group; R² and R⁴ are, independently from each other, hydrogen, an alkyl group that may be branched or an aromatic ring that may be substituted; at least one of R², R³ and R⁴ is an aromatic ring; k, m, n and p are, independently from each other, 0 (zero) or 1; and R²-R⁴, A³, B⁴, k, m, n and p can be selected independently from each other in the formulae).

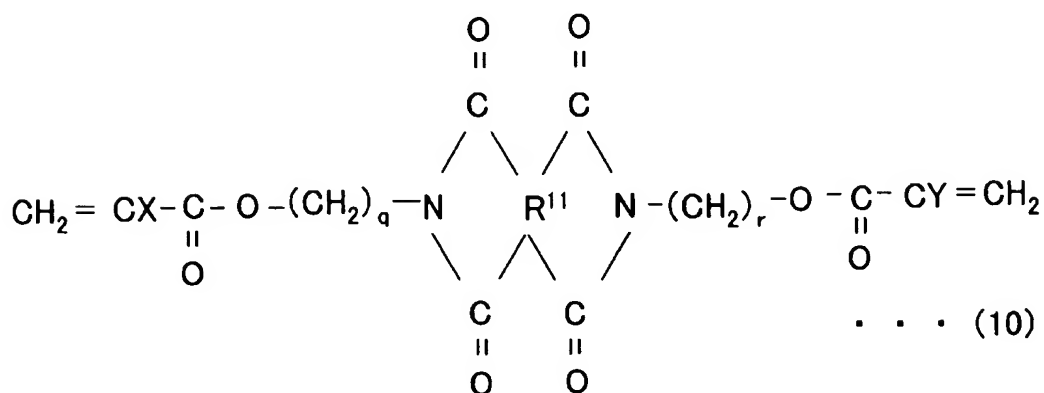
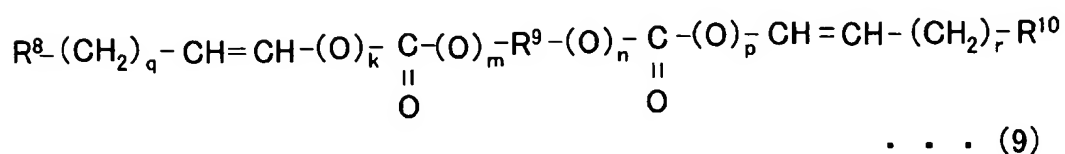
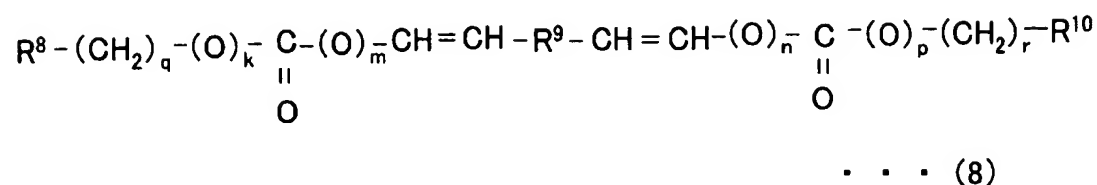
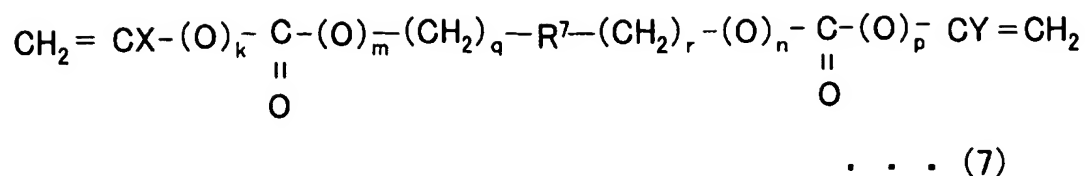
31. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 29, wherein at least one compound selected from the group consisting of the compounds represented by formulae (3) to (6) below is included as the second compound,





(in formulae (3) to (6), A^3 and B^4 are, independently from each other, a vinylene group or a propenylene group; R^3 is a divalent group; R^2 and R^4 are, independently from each other, hydrogen, an alkyl group that may be branched or an aromatic ring that may be substituted; at least one of R^2 , R^3 and R^4 is an aromatic ring; k , m , n and p are, independently from each other, 0 (zero) or 1; and R^2 - R^4 , A^3 , B^4 , k , m , n and p can be selected independently from each other in the formulae).

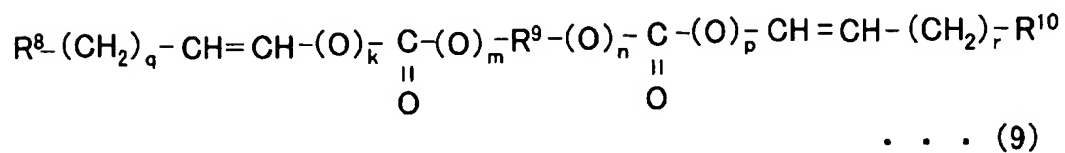
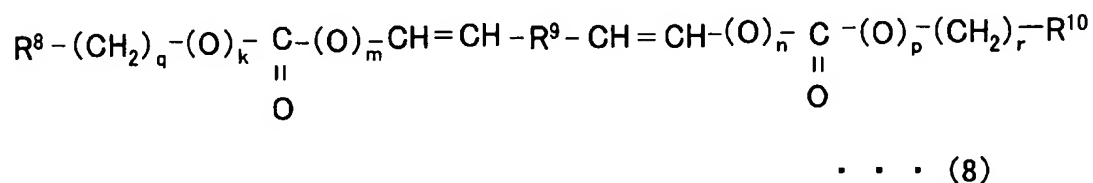
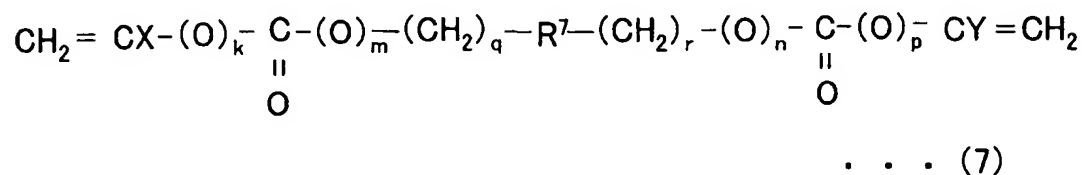
32. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 30, wherein at least one compound selected from the group consisting of the compounds represented by formulae (7) to (10) below is included as the second compound,

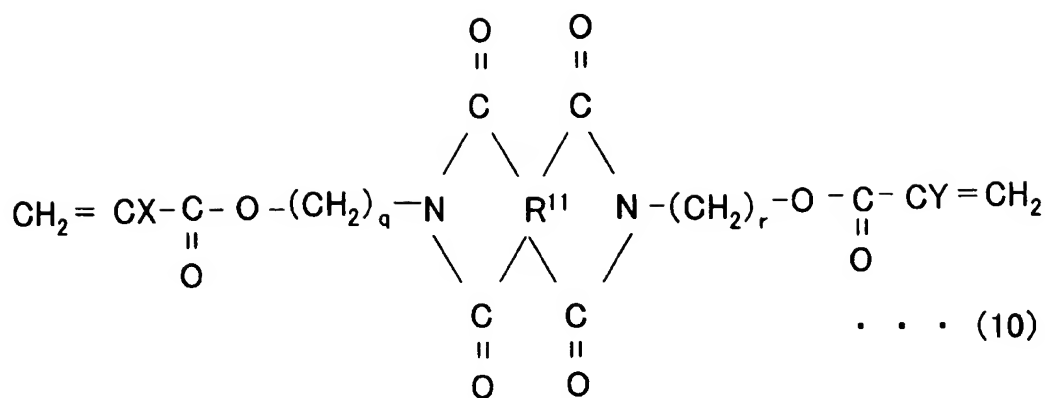


(in formulae (7) to (10), X and Y are, each independently, hydrogen or a methyl group; R^7 is a divalent organic group having a five-member ring structure; R^8 and R^{10} are hydrogen or an organic group; R^9 is a divalent organic group; at least one of R^8 , R^9 and R^{10} has a five-member ring structure; R^{11} is a tetravalent organic group constituting a tetracarboxylic acid

residue; k, m, n and p are, independently from each other, 0 (zero) or 1; q and r are, independently from each other, an integer not less than 0 (zero) and not more than 6; and R⁸-R¹⁰, k, m, n, p, q and r can be selected independently from each other in the formulae).

33. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 31, wherein at least one compound selected from the group consisting of the compounds represented by formulae (7) to (10) below is included as the second compound,





(in formulae (7) to (10), X and Y are, each independently, hydrogen or a methyl group; R^7 is a divalent organic group having a five-member ring structure; R^8 and R^{10} are hydrogen or an organic group; R^9 is a divalent organic group; at least one of R^8 , R^9 and R^{10} has a five-member ring structure; R^{11} is a tetravalent organic group constituting a tetracarboxylic acid residue; k, m, n and p are, independently from each other, 0 (zero) or 1; q and r are, independently from each other, an integer not less than 0 (zero) and not more than 6; and R^8 - R^{10} , k, m, n, p, q and r can be selected independently from each other in the formulae).

34. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 7,

wherein the thickness of at least one of said ~~the~~ pair of substrates is in the range of from 100 to 500 μm .

35. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 7, wherein the material of one of ~~said~~the pair of substrates is different from that of the other ~~substrate~~of the pair of substrates.

36. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 35, wherein said pair of substrates ~~comprise~~comprises a glass substrate and a plastic substrate.

37. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 7, wherein said liquid crystal tilts while the tilting direction is regulated by uneven parts or slits of an electrode or electrodes when voltage is applied.

38. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 7, wherein said panel does not have an alignment control film.

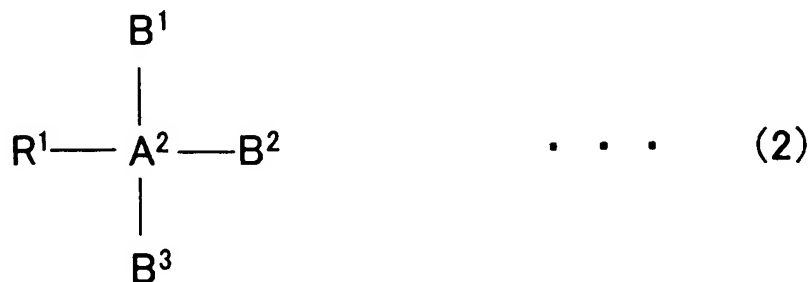
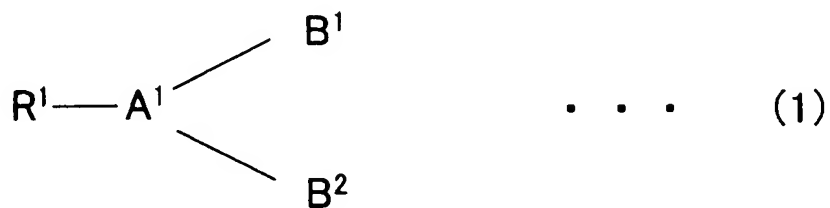
39. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 7, wherein said liquid crystal has a negative dielectric anisotropy.

40. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 7, wherein said liquid crystal layer is formed by cross-linking, in the presence of a liquid crystal, a resin composition comprising one or more first compounds having a cross-linkable structural part, and

a hydrophobic terminal part with a straight-chain section having three or more carbon atoms (hydrophobic, long-chain terminal part).

41. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 40, wherein said cross-linkable structural part of the one or more first compounds comprises a polar-group structural part.

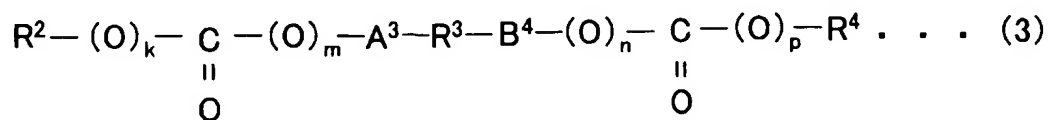
42. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 41, wherein at least one compound represented by formula (1) or (2) below is included as the one or more first compounds,

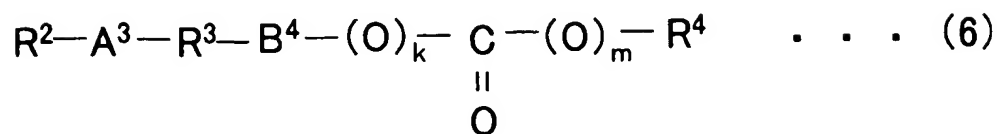
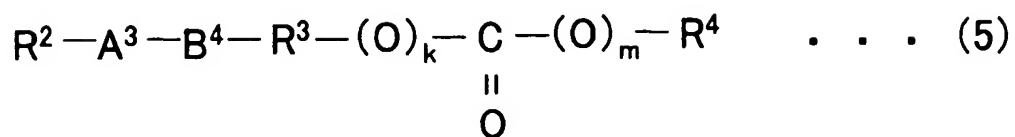
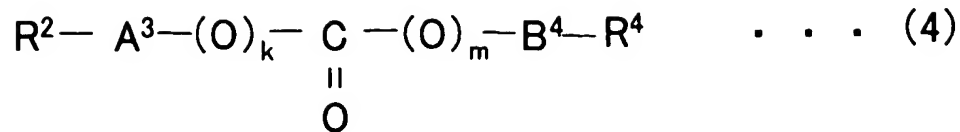


(in formulae (1) and (2), R^1 is a hydrophobic, long-chain terminal part; A^1 is a trivalent group comprising an aliphatic chain that may be branched, an aromatic ring that may have a substituting group, an alicyclic ring that may have a substituting group, or nitrogen; A^2 is a tetravalent group comprising an aliphatic chain that may be branched, an aromatic ring that may have a substituting group, or an alicyclic ring that may have a substituting group; B^1 , B^2 and B^3 are, each, a cross-linkable structural part; and R^1 , B^1 , B^2 and B^3 can be selected independently from each other in the formulae).

43. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 42, wherein said one or more first compounds comprise a second compound with a cross-linkable structural part and substantially without a hydrophobic, long-chain terminal part.

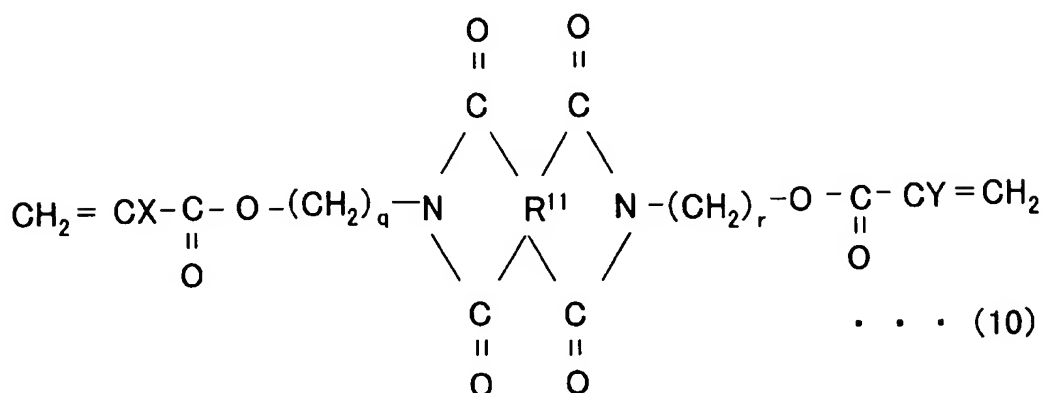
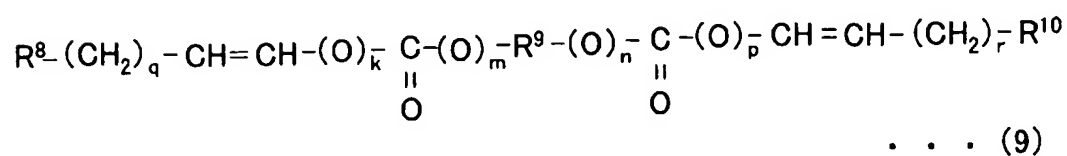
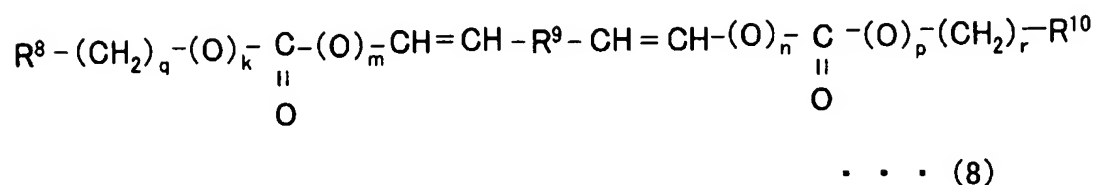
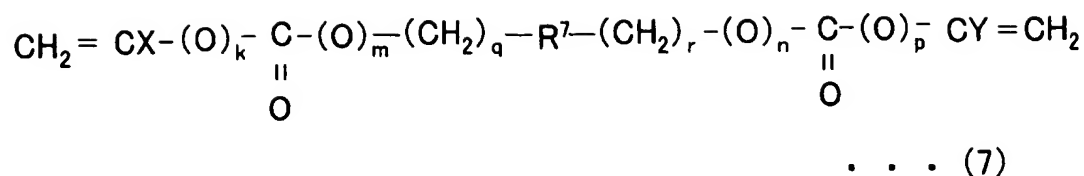
44. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 43, wherein at least one compound selected from the group consisting of the compounds represented by formulae (3) to (6) below is included as the second compound,





(in formulae (3) to (6), A³ and B⁴ are, independently from each other, a vinylene group or a propenylene group; R³ is a divalent group; R² and R⁴ are, independently from each other, hydrogen, an alkyl group that may be branched or an aromatic ring that may be substituted; at least one of R², R³ and R⁴ is an aromatic ring; k, m, n and p are, independently from each other, 0 (zero) or 1; and R²-R⁴, A³, B⁴, k, m, n and p can be selected independently from each other in the formulae).

45. (Original) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 44, wherein at least one compound selected from the group consisting of the compounds represented by formulae (7) to (10) below is included as the second compound,



(in formulae (7) to (10), X and Y are, each independently, hydrogen or a methyl group; R^7 is a divalent organic group having a five-member ring structure; R^8 and R^{10} are hydrogen or an organic group; R^9 is a divalent organic group; at least one of R^8 , R^9 and R^{10} has a five-member ring structure; R^{11} is a tetravalent organic group constituting a tetracarboxylic acid

residue; k, m, n and p are, independently from each other, 0 (zero) or 1; q and r are, independently from each other, an integer not less than 0 (zero) and not more than 6; and R^8-R^{10} , k, m, n, p, q and r can be selected independently from each other in the formulae).

46. (Cancelled)

47. (New) A liquid crystal panel according to claim 1, wherein said adhered cross-linked structural part forms a thin film on said upper surface of said one of the pair of substrates.